Business

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phere — popular for studying, relaxing and "hanging out."

Featuring a drive-thru window, the 1,500 square-foot location will be open 5:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 5:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday.

Rachel Hobbs, a Weatherford College sophomore, said she can not wait.

"My friends and I would make special trips to Fort Worth just to go to Starbucks," she said.

Residents can get a sneak peak at the new store Friday from 5 to 7 p.m. Starbucks store manager Lisa Tanko is hosting a friends and family open house fund-raiser. Drinks will be free and donations will be collected for A Place for Grace. Tanko has arranged for live music and is excited to introduce the new store.

"We welcome anyone who wants to come," Tanko said.

Fort Worth District Manager Dawn Pacheco said she is thrilled about the new location. "We have had a lot of requests for a Starbucks in Weatherford," she said, "and I'm glad we've been able to give our customers what they want."

The Weatherford Store is the 10th store in her district including central Fort Worth and Granbury.

Tanko, who lives in Weatherford, started with Starbucks part time three years ago. Within a year and a half she was given her own store in Keller. When she heard the company was opening a store in Weatherford she jumped at the chance to move.

"I got to come home," she said.

Through the company's commitment to giving back to its community, Tanko was able to adopt a non-profit organization of her choice.

"Starbucks is big on community involvement," she said. "Each store chooses an organization to help and I chose A Place for Grace."

The local Starbucks has provided 17 jobs for area residents.

Next door to Starbucks, is Anderson's Florist and Roly Poly. Down the hill, Payless Shoe Source has opened and GameStop is on its way.

"This is a prime area," said Dave Anderson, owner of Anderson Florist. "We are excited to be here."

Anderson opened his store Nov. 17. Roly Poly opened Nov. 18 and Payless opened Nov. 19.

In the last year and a half two coffee shops have opened in Weatherford, Holy Grounds on North Main Street and Coffee Island at the intersection of South Main Street and Bethel Road. Coffee Cat Cafe opened four years ago on the Weatherford downtown square.

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